



Notification Sent Via Email

March 18, 2024

Shilo Sealy, ssealy@lcecnecnet.com
Lea County Electric Cooperative Inc, NM3594713
PO Box 1447
Lovington, NM 88260

RE: Total Coliform Non-Sampling Violation

Shilo Sealy:

Our records indicate that the Lea County Electric Cooperative Inc water system did not submit the required number of microbiological samples in accordance with an approved Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) sampling plan for the month of February 2024. Pursuant to Section 20.7.10.100 NMAC [incorporating 40 CFR 141.853(a)(1) and 20.7.10.500C NMAC, you are required to take one total coliform sample each month. Lea County Electric Cooperative Inc is in violation of the above referenced section for failure to conduct routine total coliform monitoring. Therefore, the following is applicable.

Pursuant to Section 20.7.10.100 NMAC [incorporating 40 CFR Section 141.204], you are required to notify your customers of this non-sampling violation by **mail or other direct delivery to each customer** and any other methods as necessary to inform the public, within one year from the date of this letter. Public notice must be provided by hand delivery, mail delivery or by posting in conspicuous locations and any other method reasonably calculated to reach others. Public notice must remain in place **no less than seven days** or as long as the violation still exists, which will be until the next round of compliance sampling is conducted.

Pursuant to 20.7.10.100 NMAC [incorporating 40 CFR Section 141.31(d)] the Lea County Electric Cooperative Inc must certify that the notice was published and the method of publication, by submitting a completed copy of the enclosed Public Notification Certification Form to the DWB **within 10 days of completing the public notification requirements**. A representative copy of each type of notice distributed, published, posted or made available to the people served by the system must be included with the certification form.

Please fill out and return the enclosed Public Notice Certification Form to:
Chet Markham by email to chet.markham2@env.nm.gov

Failure to comply with the public notice requirements will result in an additional violation(s) (failure to notify the public and the state) being issued without notice to the Lea County Electric Cooperative Inc. Continued failure to comply with Public Notification Requirements, as defined in 20.7.10.100 NMAC [incorporating 40 CFR Sections 141.204 and 141.31(d)] will result in escalated enforcement actions including issuance of Administrative Orders with possible penalties assessed against the Lea County Electric Cooperative Inc.

NMED-DWB reserves the right to take additional enforcement action regarding the violations identified in this NOV, to include the issuance of an Administrative Compliance Order compelling compliance and issuing civil penalties.

Pursuant to the NMED Delegation Order dated February 19, 2024, the Cabinet Secretary has delegated the authority to issue Notice of Violations to DWB Compliance Supervisor Brandi Littleton.

Please note that your facility will appear on the Department's Enforcement Watch as a result of this NOV (see: <https://www.env.nm.gov/enforcement-watch/>). Further, the Department will issue a press release to local media highlighting your public water system as appearing on this webpage. Your public water system will remain on the Enforcement Watch website as an active matter until this matter is fully resolved.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Chet Markham at 505-629-3085 or by email at chet.markham2@env.nm.gov.

Respectfully,



Brandi Littleton, Compliance Supervisor
Drinking Water Bureau
Water Protection Division

Enclosures: Public Notice Template
 Public Notice Certification Form

xc: Martin Torrez, PWSS Manager (electronic)
 Chet Markham, RTCR Administrator (electronic)
 Electronic Central File

Public Notice Instructions for Water Systems

If you are required to provide Tier 3 notification, you must provide public notice to persons served within one year after you learn of the violation 20.7.10.100 NMAC [incorporating 40 CFR 141.204(b)]. Multiple monitoring violations can be serious, and the NMED DWB may have more stringent requirements. Check with the NMED DWB to make sure you meet its requirements.

Community systems must use one of the following 20.7.10.100 NMAC [incorporating 40 CFR 141.204(c)]:

- Hand or direct delivery
- Mail, as a separate notice or included with the bill

- Non-community systems must use one of the following 20.7.10.100 NMAC [incorporating 40 CFR 141.204(c)]:
- Posting in conspicuous locations
- Hand delivery
- Mail

In addition, both community and non-community systems must use another method reasonably calculated to reach others if they would not be reached by the first method 20.7.10.100 NMAC [incorporating 40 CFR 141.204(c)]. Such methods could include newspapers, e-mail, or delivery to community organizations. If you post the notice, it must remain posted until the violation is resolved. If the violation has already been resolved, you must post the notice for at least seven days 20.7.10.100 NMAC [incorporating 40 CFR 141.204(b)]. If you mail, post, or hand deliver, print your notice on your system's letterhead, if available.

The notice on the following page is appropriate for insertion in an annual notice or the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), as long as public notification timing and delivery requirements are met 20.7.10.100 NMAC [incorporating 40 CFR 141.204(d)]. You may need to modify the template for a notice for individual monitoring violations. This example presents violations in a table; however, you may write out an explanation for each violation if you wish. For any monitoring violation for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) or other groups, you may list the group name in the table, but you must provide the name of every chemical in the group on the notice, e.g., in a footnote.

You may need to modify the notice if you had any monitoring violations for which monitoring later showed a maximum contaminant level or other violation. In such cases, you should refer to the public notice you issued at that time. If you do modify the notice, you must still include all required PN elements from 40 CFR 141.205(a) and leave the mandatory language unchanged (see below).

Mandatory Language

Mandatory language for monitoring and testing procedure violations 20.7.10.100 NMAC [incorporating 40 CFR 141.205(d)] must be included as written (with blanks filled in) and is presented in this notice in italics and with an asterisk on either end.

You must also include standard language to encourage the distribution of the public notice to all persons served, where applicable 20.7.10.100 NMAC [incorporating 40 CFR 141.205(d)]. This language is also presented in this notice in italics and with an asterisk on either end.

Corrective Action

In your notice, describe corrective actions you took, or are taking. Listed below are some steps commonly taken by water systems with monitoring violations. You can use the following language, if appropriate, or develop your own:

- We have since taken the required samples, as described in the last column of the table above. The samples showed we are meeting drinking water standards.
- We have since taken the required samples, as described in the last column of the table above. The sample for [contaminant] exceeded the limit. [Describe corrective action; use information from public notice prepared for violating the limit.]
- We plan to take the required samples soon, as described in the last column of the table above.

After Issuing the Notice

Make sure to send the NMED DWB a copy of each type of notice and a certification that you have met all the public notice requirements within ten days after issuing the notice 20.7.10.100 NMAC [incorporating 40 CFR 141.31(d)].

PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM MUST APPROPRIATELY MODIFY THIS PUBLIC NOTICE TO INCLUDE UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION REGARDING THIS VIOLATION AS WELL AS INFORMATION ABOUT THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE VIOLATION'S AFFECT ON THE WATER SYSTEM. PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM OFFICIAL MUST DELETE THIS PARAGRAPH ONCE PUBLIC NOTICE HAS BEEN APPROPRIATELY UPDATED, PRIOR TO SENDING OUT TO THE PUBLIC*

PUBLIC NOTICE

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Monitoring Requirements Not Met for Lea County Electric Cooperative Inc

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During February 2024, we did not complete all monitoring requirements for Total Coliform and therefore *cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time.*

What should you do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time.

What does this mean?

Our water system is required by law to collect a monthly total coliform sample. During this reporting period, we did not collect the required sample.

What happened? What is being done?

Date that system collected next valid routine sample: _____

(Note: A system will not return to compliance until a lab has analyzed a routine sample).

For more information, please contact Shilo Sealy at 575-396-3631 or PO Box 1447, Lovington, NM 88260.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.



New Mexico Environment Department - Drinking Water Bureau

Public Notification Certification Form – All Tiers

Requirements Pursuant to 40 CFR 141 (Subpart Q)

****This form and a copy of your Notice to the Public must be submitted to the State within 10 days of notifying your customers. ****

PWSID#: NM3594713 **Water System Name:** Lea County Electric Cooperative Inc

Violation or Situation Date: February 2024

Individual Contaminant or Contaminant Group: 3A RTCR

Violation or Situation Type: Non-Sampling Violation

Violation or Situation Public Notification Tier: Tier 3

Distributed the notice by the following method(s), and on the following date(s) in accordance with 40 CFR 141.201:

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Continuously Post | Date: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Separate Mailing to Customers | Date: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hand Deliver Notice to Customers | Date: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publish Notice in Newspaper | Date: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Release Notice to and Announced by Broadcast Media | Date: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Post Notice on System Website | Date: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Billing | Date: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Report (Consumer Confidence Report) | Date: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | Date: _____ |

Attach a copy of the posted Public Notice(s) to this certification form.

The public water system named above hereby certifies that public notification has been provided to its consumers in accordance with all delivery, content, and format requirements specified in 40 CFR Part 141:

Signature of Responsible Official

Date

Printed Name

Title of Responsible Official